

[*Translation*]**Import of Electronic Counting Machines**

2816. SHRI RAM KRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATH-
ERIA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
import electronic voting machines;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries from
which these machines are likely to be pur-
chased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]**Export of Onion and Red Chillies**

2817. DR. V. RAJESWARAN: Will the
Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders dealing with onions
and red chillies in Tamil Nadu have been
allowed to export these commodities to gulf
countries to earn foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Govern-
ment to prevent steep rise in prices of these
items in domestic market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SAL-
MAN KHURSHEED): (a) It is open to any
trader to export onions as an associate ship-
per of NAFED, which is the canalising agency.
Export of red chillies is allowed on de-con-
trolled basis.

(b) In case of items of mass consump-
tion, restrictions such as quantitative ceil-
ings or a complete ban on export of agricul-
tural products are stipulated where neces-
sary.

[*Translation*]**Upgradation of Cities**

2818. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH: Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have
upgraded Bikaner as 'B' class city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of requests for
upgradation of cities are pending with the
Government;

(d) if so, the names of cities in each
State in respect of which such requests have
been received; and

(e) the time by which decision is likely to
be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN-
TARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Bikaner
has been upgraded as 'B-2' class city for the
purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance/
Compensatory (City) Allowance to Central
Government employees.

(c) to (e). According to the existing crite-
rion, upgradation/re-classification of cities
for the purpose of grant of HRS/CCA is done